YANKEE AIR FORCE NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 852
WILLOW RUN AIRPORT
YPSILANTI, MI. 48197

Volume 1 | July 1982 | Issue 7

DINNER DANCE

You are cordially invited to attend a 1940's Big Band Dinner Dance at the YAF Hangar, August 14th, 7:30 p.m. Now it's our turn to relax and enjoy. This should be a great fund raiser. Included in this evening is a sit-down buffet dinner. There will be beer and coffee provided. The meal will be catered. If you prefer something to drink other than beer, you'll need to bring it. The Big Band (Ambassadors) will be arranged under the C-47 along with other vintage aircraft on display. The tickets are $15 per person. Tickets are available by calling Cindy Smith, 487-5965, sending self-addressed envelope requesting the number of tickets desired along with a check, or at the door. The dress will be dresses for the ladies, and dress slacks for the men. (Gussy Casual.) This is an excellent opportunity to meet your fellow members. Bring your neighbors and friends. This fund raiser is open to the public. This is not only an opportunity to have fun, but to raise additional funds for an aircraft. Hope to see you there!

Cindy Smith, YAF #010

CHAIRPERSONS NEEDED

(1) Program Committee (programs for meetings)
(2) Fund Raising Committee (very critical)
(3) F-84 Squadron Leader (restoration project)

Call Dennis Norton to volunteer.

OSHKOSH '82

The YAF is participating in Oshkosh. Please help. We need someone to pull our trailer to Oshkosh. We especially need people to help with the booth between Monday and Friday. A tent on one camp site will be available. First come basis. Room for about 8 friendly sleeping bags. Donations taken for site costs.

Acme Flight Service is offering cost-basis transportation; Beech $70 round trip, Navajo $100.00 round trip. Some one-ways are being worked out. Let's make the YAF shine our first year. Contact Greg Smith, 487-5965, as soon as possible.

F-84 RESTORATION

The F-84 from Van Buren Park is being brought to the YAF hangar. This is apparently a very rare GRF-84-F, one of only 3 built to be air-launched and recovered from the bomb bay of the huge B-36 in the early 1950's. This makes the restoration project even more meaningful. Those who have seen this aircraft know that a major restoration is necessary, probably a 2 year project. A committee needs to be formed to research, plan and begin the restoration. Many members have listed on their applications an interest in aircraft restoration. Here is your opportunity to begin a project from scratch and follow it through to a fully restored aircraft. We're taking names now for this project. If you're interested in joining the "F-84 Squadron" and helping with the restoration of this rare aircraft, please call the hangar at 483-4030 or sign up at the general membership meeting in August. Aircraft restoration is our major purpose. This is what we're all about. This is the first aircraft squadron to be activated. Volunteer to help.

"GRANTOLOGIST" NEEDED

Is "grantology" your specialty? Do you have knowledge of someone who is? The YAF would like to apply to a foundation for a grant to purchase and transport back a B-24. In addition, funds are needed for our hangar and projects needed for the immediate future. The YAF is in need of assistance in developing a "Prospectus" to apply for a grant. Should you have this talent or know of a person(s) who does, please contact Dennis Norton or Phil Lundy. We have available a list of hundreds of foundations.

TO THE NEW MEMBERS

You may have missed the fun of working on the hangar in 15° below zero weather and three feet of snow, but there's still lots to do. Don't be shy. C'mon out and help. We'll have a hangar tour and orientation Sunday, August 1st at noon. Bring a picnic lunch.

HANGAR COMMITTEE

The Hangar Committee is being reorganized to work on a project-by-project basis on the hangar. Al Bittner YAF # 054 has been appointed the new chairperson of the Hangar Committee. His two able assistants will be Frank Modlinski, YAF #238, and Jim Shephard, YAF #168. The hangar will be open most days for work and special projects will be scheduled for weekends. If you wish to work on the hangar during the week, simply check the "work needed board" for a job which needs to be done.

The YAF extends its thanks to Dick Kolbas for chairing the Hangar Committee these past 6 months. A lot has been accomplished but a lot more needs to be done over the next 3 years. This is our home and we need to keep working on it. Please help Al, Frank, and Jim by volunteering for special projects (some of which are listed on this page) or showing up for work parties.

Al Bittner - 699-9215 or 322-2076
Frank Modlinski - 427-5409
Jim Shephard - 697-4611

HEATING SYSTEM

With winter coming, the Board has been reviewing ideas for heating parts of the hangar. We are quite limited on funds for heating and it appears that we'll be limited to heating the meeting room, some offices and the restrooms. We need donations of house type furnaces or electric space heaters for this first year. We also need a propane gas storage tank and related piping. We are getting bids from contractors, but if anyone knows of a contractor who would donate this equipment or sell it at cost, please let Tom Wilkins know. This is an immediate need!!

HANGAR DOORS

We need a crew to dismantle, replace the bearings (we have new bearings donated) and repack the hangar door rollers before winter. The doors also need some additional work on the panels and weatherstrips before winter. Please call Al Bittner, Frank Modlinski, or Jim Shephard and volunteer.

INTERIOR DOORS

A project which needs to be done soon is hanging doors on all the rooms on the first floor and the meeting room. There are plenty of doors available. Someone needs to fit them to the proper openings, move the hinges around & hang them. Call Frank Modlinski to volunteer.

HANGAR NEEDS

We need to have donated, new or used, the following items for the hangar restoration. Check your unused items around the house, hardware stores, lumber yards, businesses, closing plants, etc. Call Al Bittner or Frank Modlinski. Remember, all donated items are tax deductible.

HAND TOOLS

hammers*
saw**
pliers*
wire cutters*
pipewrenches*
ratchet set
paint brushes**
paint rollers**
level
propane torch
paint scrapers**
crescent wrenches

SUPPLIES

floor wax
windex
rags*
cleaning soaps*
sandpaper**
nails**
oil
screws**
caulk
fertilizer
insulation
roofing tar**

MISCELLANEOUS

rope
locks**
water meter
padlocks**
couch
easy chairs
bathroom mirror
scaffolding
burgular alarm system
linoleum tile*
rolls of polyethelyne

ELECTRIC TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

sabre saw & blades
extension cords*
florescent light fixtures
lamps
fuses
stove
table saw*
romex 12/2-G and 14/2-G
microwave oven

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

filing cabinets**
large manila envelopes
bookshelves
tables
copy machine
telephone recorder
file folders

MISC. EQUIPMENT

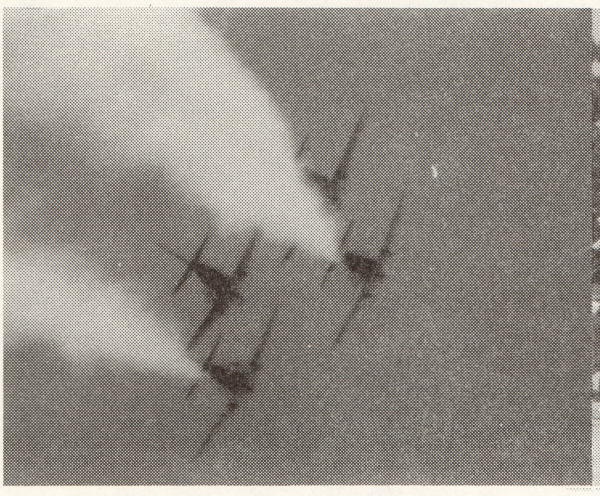
brooms**
mops*
buckets*
shovels*
air compressor**
garden rakes
spray paint gun
garden hoses
300 folding chairs**
self brackets**
folding tables
color TV
twin beech tow bar
staplers
deep freezer
scissors
storage shelving

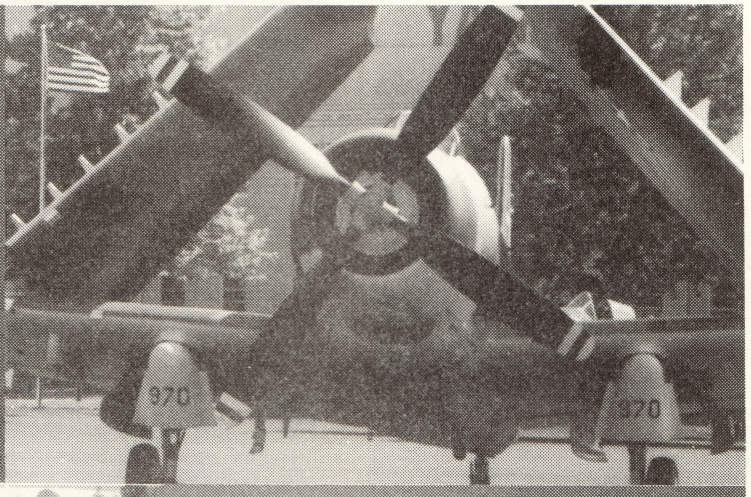
*Immediate needs
**Most immediate needs!!

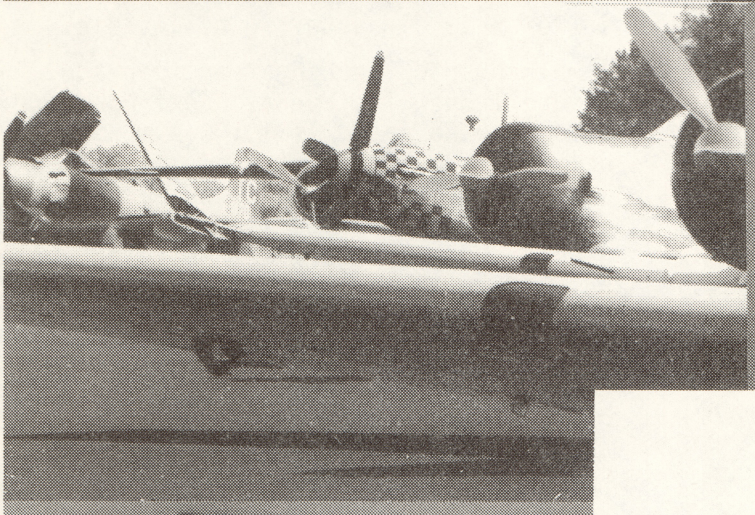
HANGAR FLOOR

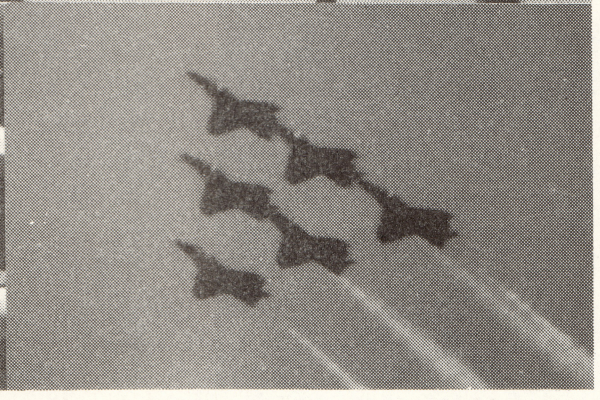
A number of people have proposed ways to clean the hangar floor. This needs to be done soon (before cold weather). If anyone has a workable solution to this problem, please call Dave Cunningham - 322-0250 as soon as possible. We also need to have a large quantity of gray deck paint donated to seal the floor.

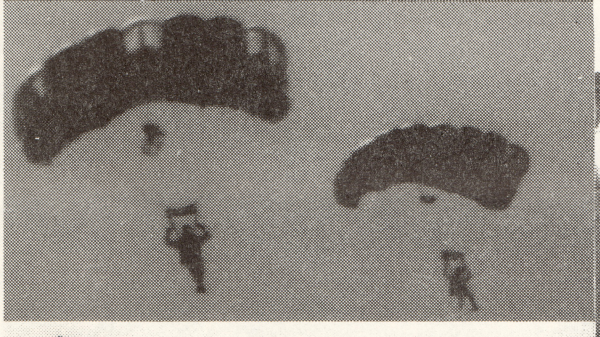
WILLOW RUN AIR SHOW 1982

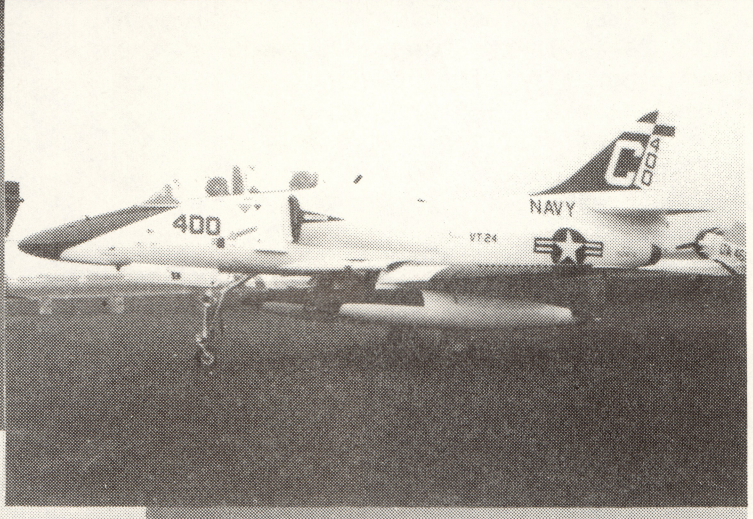


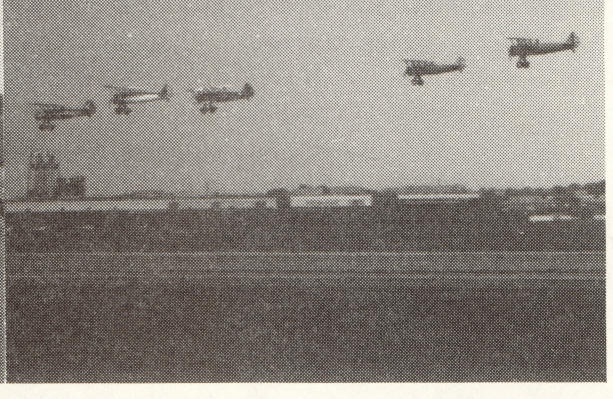












MEMBERSHIP MEETING AUGUST 4TH

The August membership meeting will feature the movie "Blake." This 20-minute film presents the lifestyle of Blake James. Blake hates cities, lives in a cluttered log cabin in the woods and loves to fly a small biplane. He has the courage to live what others only dare to dream and few dare to explore.

HANGAR ROOF REPAIR

The roof repair party is scheduled for July 24 and 25 with August 7 and 8 as an alternate. Please volunteer by calling Al Bittner (w-322-2076 or h-699-9215). We need plastic roof cement, aluminum roof coat, roll roofing, tar bucket and heater, and roof tar. Call Al if you can donate any of these or can get them donated or can get discounts.

HANGAR SIDING AND GUTTER REPAIR

This project is scheduled for August 14 and 15. Most materials are on hand. Call Al Bittner.

PILOTS FLIGHT LOUNGE

We need a group to plan and set up a pilots flight room similar to the old "ready rooms" of World War II. A room has been set aside. Please call Frank Modlinski, 427-5409, to volunteer.

FLINT AIR SHOW LABOR DAY WEEKEND

The Yankee Air Force has been asked to provide and coordinate the warbirds and biplane fly-bys and static displays for the Flint Air Show. This is a 3 day air show, September 4, 5, & 6 at Bishop Airport. Let's give them a good show. This is a perfect opportunity to start expanding our sphere of influence. They'll give us a membership booth and 2 pages in the program as well as the exposure for our aircraft and crews. We're working diligently on a Flint area chapter & this is to be the kick off for the membership drive. We need 10 people per day to run our booth. Call Dave Pettyes.

REMINDERS

- sign up for trip to Harlingen, Texas CAF show by August 1st. Terry Emery, 422-6278, Cindy Smith, 487-5965
- call Dave Pettyes to volunteer for Flint Air Show Labor Day weekend, 659-1686
- call Greg Smith to volunteer for Oshkosh or Cleveland Air Shows, 487-5965
- sell tickets for dance August 14 - Cindy Smith, 487-5965
- if you're interested in participating in the T-6 purchase, call Dennis Norton, 434-0020

VOLUNTEER TO HELP

The YAF needs you, your ideas, and your time. Come to the meetings, work parties, open houses, find new members, historic aircraft or donations. You are the YAF.

DANCE

Call Cindy Smith if you can help sell tickets for the dance.

HANGAR TALK

After 10 years, Willow Run finally had another air show, and what a show it was! Everyone has talked about how great it was. Chuck Newcome and Associates put together a really fine program.

It was a challenge for the YAF staff and volunteers to be co-sponsors with Wayne County Road Commission. The air show was on our minds for weeks, not knowing what to expect until it was here.

Our committee staff handled air show facilities, ticket sales, security in and out of our hangar, road exits, transporting courtesy cars, displays in our hangar, our own membership team, sales, and anything that came up. I could write a book on problems we had. But we handled every problem professionally and solved each one quickly.

Just imagine all the hours our members put in for this air show. Unbelievable.

I walked into the hangar on Wednesday, and before I knew it, Sunday night was here. Time went so fast. At 10:00 p.m. Sunday, sitting in our meeting room, all of us were tired. We congratulated each other, committee members and special assignment people. We all felt great satisfaction and relief. It was a tremendous feeling.

It was great for our members to meet and talk to pilots and crew. All the pilots in the program were super guys. Our own Art Patstone, Royal Falcons from Jordan, U.S. Army Golden Knights, Eagles Aerobatic team, the Great Bob Hoover, U.S. Navy Blue Angels, YAF Fly-By, DC-9 from Republic Air Lines, F-4's from Selfridge, Warbird Fly-By, and Leo Laudenslager flying his Laser 200.

Dennis Norton and T.J. Wilkins, our members would like to tipe our blue caps to you two guys for your dedication and coordination of the air show and the Yankee Air Force Programs.

See you next month.

Frank Modlinski, YAF #238

HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSON

Marie Fritz has volunteered to head a Hospitality Committee. Please call her at 522-3395 if you can help.

YAF OFFICE

We need some volunteers to man the YAF office in the hangar between 12 and 4, Monday thru Saturday. This would allow visitors to come in and the phone to be answered. Office work such as mailings could also be done. Anyone with an interest in doing this one or more days a week please call Dennis Norton.

MEMBERSHIP DUES 1982-83

The Board of Directors, at a special meeting on July 15 voted to leave the membership dues at $25.00 per year for the rest of 1982. This reflects the feeling among Board members that the lower dues will encourage more people to join. The lifetime memberships will also remain the same. The charter memberships will not be available after September 24, 1982 (the end of our first year). A $10 initiation fee will be charged each new member after September 24. This will be a one-time fee paid at the time a person joins the YAF. The need for this became clear when the costs for the membership card, name badge and initial paperwork were closely looked at. Anyone joining before September 24th will not have to pay the initiation fee. The fiscal year for the Yankee Air Force is January 1 through December 31. The dues structure will be looked at again in December to determine if changes need to be made for fiscal year 1983. The feeling of the Board is that unless we really need the extra money, the dues will remain the same for fiscal year 1983.

RETAIL SALES

We now have available YAF jackets. They are navy blue with a swiss embroidered patch on the front. The cost is $28 for adult, $26 for youth. You can have your name embroidered on the front for an additional $1.50 per jacket. An order form is enclosed with the newsletter for your convenience.

We recently purchased a trailer which will be used for our booth at air shows that we attend. We are in need for volunteers to man this booth at Oshkosh and the Cleveland air shows. To pull this trailer a 3/4 ton pick up or large car will be required. If you would like to volunteer for either of these air shows, contact Greg Smith-487-5965. It is very important that we attend these air shows. Please give us your support.

We also have just received a beautiful 8 x 10 photograph of the Blue Angels sitting on our ramp at the air show. The photograph was taken at night and has "Yankee Air Force Willow Run Airport 1982" on the bottom. This is a fine memento of the 1982 Willow Run Air Show (our first). Copies are available for $5 and will be available at the general membership meeting August 4th.

Terry Emery YAF #352
Retail Sales Chairperson

CLEVELAND AIR SHOW

We've been invited to fly in & display at the Cleveland Air Show on Labor Day weekend. Anyone interested call Greg Smith by August 1st. This will be another opportunity to put the Yankee Air Force on display.

FOLDING CHAIRS

We still need 300 folding chairs. Until we get them, please bring a chair to the meetings.

YAF CALENDAR

7/24 & 7/25 - Dayton Air Show, Dayton International Airport, Dayton, Ohio
7/24 - 7/25 - CAF B-29 on display, no air show, Lansing, Michigan
7/31 - 8/7 - 30th Annual EAA Fly-In & Convention, Oshkosh, Wisconsin (YAF):
- 8/1-Warbirds
- 8/2-Oshkosh 500 Race, Aircraft Rec. Veh.
- 8/3-Salute to NASA
- 8/4-ANTIQUES & CLASSICS!
- 8/5-Homebuilts
- 8/6-Aircraft & artifacts auction
- 8/7-Ultralights
- Air Show each day

8/1 - Hangar tour & orientation - YAF hangar
8/1 - Deadline for commitments of DC-9 trip to CAF, Harlingen, Texas
8/4 - YAF General membership meeting, 7:30, the Hangar
8/4 - YAF newsletter deadline
8/10 - Membership Committee meeting, 7:30 the Hangar
8/10 - Board meeting agenda deadline
8/14 - YAF Dinner/1940's Big Band Dance, the Hangar
8/18 - Board meeting (& Advisory Council) 7:30, the Hangar
8/21 - Air Show & Fly-In, Chippewa County Airport (formerly Kinchloe AFB)
8/22 - Livingston County Fly-In, Howell, Mich.
8/25 - YAF Photo Grp. Meeting, 6:30, the Hangar
8/29 - Dawn Patrol & Fly-In, Grosse Ile, Mich.
9/4 - 9/6 - Air Show, Burke Lakefront Airport, Cleveland, Ohio (YAF)
9/4 - 9/6 - Air Show, Bishop Airport, Flint, Michigan (YAF)
9/9 - 9/12 - 4th Annual Commemorative Michigan Air Tour
9/17 - 9/19 - 19th National Championship Air Races, Reno, Nevada
9/25 - YAF Charter Membership deadline
10/7 - 10/10 - CAF Air Show, Harlingen, Texas
10/10 - YAF trip to CAF Air Show (tentative)

- (YAF) - indicates YAF participation

Coming Events

September-YAF Fly-In Pancake Breakfast
October-Int. Pl. Mod. Soc. Conv., Ramada Inn, Detroit Metro Airport
October- Int. Cessna 120/140 Assoc. Annual Conv. & Fly-In, Callaway Gardens, Georgia

Stan Reich YAF #55, 427-8014

YAF RECRUITING

Anyone attending any kind of air show, dawn patrol, or fly-in, please wear YAF shirt, hat, or patch. Applications & brochures are available from Harry Terpstra to pass out. Everyone please recruit wherever you go.

BARBECUE PIT

Call Frank Modlinski if you would like to help build a barbecue pit in our picnic area.

YAF MEMBERSHIPS

Anyone who joins the Yankee Air Force before September 24, 1982, will become a charter member. This is a tremendous selling point for soliciting new members. Everyone try to bring in new people to join the YAF. We must continue growing.

Charter membership - $25.00 annual

Charter membership - spouse - $10.00 annual

Charter Life membership (individual) $500.00 one time

Conditional Life membership - $12.50/month for 48 months ($600.00) or $25.00/month for 24 months ($600.00)

Charter Corporate membership - $500.00 minimum (annual)

YAF AREA REPRESENTATIVES

In our efforts to form other divisions of the Yankee Air Force across the country, area representatives are being appointed. These people have volunteered to be YAF contacts and begin working on the formation of chapters in these areas. Anyone living in these areas should contact the area representative and offer to help. Hopefully local meetings can be set up and the YAF idea will catch on as rapidly as it has at the Headquarters Division at Willow Run. If anyone wishes to be an area representative, please contact Dennis Norton.

Flint, Mid Michigan
David Pettyes YAF #244
8505 Apple Blossom Lane
Flushing, MI 48433 313-659-1686

New Jersey
Lee Herron YAF #464
Caldwell Essex County Airport
R 5 Passaic Avenue
Fairfield, New Jersey 07006
201-736-9092 or 201-575-9621

Boston, Massachusetts
Rusty Restuccia YAF #345
100 Willard Street
Quincy, MA 02168 617-479-4678

HANGAR RENTAL

Space is available in the YAF hangar for any historic aircraft at least 30 years old or any military aircraft regardless of age. Space is also available for restoration projects. We want to have many aircraft on public display in the hangar as the beginning of our museum. If you would like to fly with the YAF and have your aircraft on public display in the YAF hangar or know anyone who would, please call Dennis Norton or Greg Smith. We also have individual maintenance rooms available.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Norton, President - 482-5548
Greg Smith, Vice-President - 487-5965
Patti Meyer, Treasurer - 439-7976
Cindy Smith, Secretary - 487-5965
Elmer Spencer - 485-8900
George Taylor - 434-4753
Harry Terpstra - 485-3049
Tom Wilkins - 525-2616
Phil Lundy - 664-9171

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

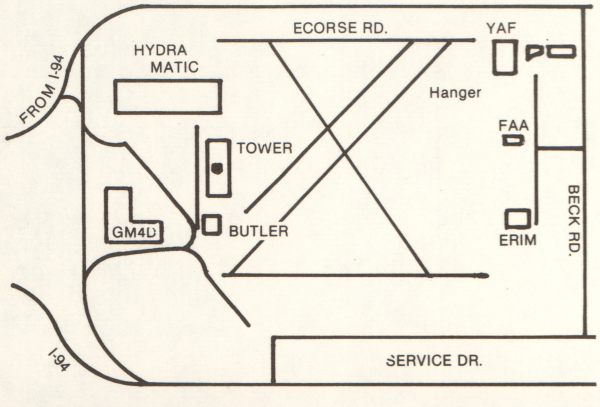
Membership - Harry Terpstra - 485-3049
Finance - Patti Meyer - 439-7976
Aircraft Procurement - Elmer Spencer - 485-8900
Retail Sales - Terry Emery - 422-6278
Publicity - George Taylor - 434-4753
Program - Ken Lentz - 522-3854
Hangar - Al Bittner
Pilot Certification - Mike LaPine
Museum/History - Phil Lundy - 644-9171
Hospitality -

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Membership meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Yankee Air Force hangar, Willow Run Airport. Please mark these days on the calendar. The strength of the YAF lies solely in the participation of its membership. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and end between 9:30 and 10:00 depending on the program. Many committees hold short meetings; officers, Board members and committee chairpersons are available for discussions; and YAF hats, t-shirts, patches, and video tapes can be purchased. Always try to bring new members to the meeting where they can join.

Attend the membership meetings, find out what we're doing, how you can help, and enjoy some great programs.

BOARD MEETINGS - ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Yankee Air Force hangar on Beck Road. Meetings are open to anyone. Board meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Advisory Council meets in conjunction with the Board of Directors, same time, same place. Please volunteer one or more times to meet with the Board on this Council and give your ideas.